

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Replace the paragraph at page 3, beginning at line 17, with the following amended paragraph:

When the network topology changes, initiator mastership can change, and a new master initiator will be responsible for the state of the ports. However, a first initiator cannot read a topology table from a second initiator. Consequently, in a case where the first initiator becomes a master for a web of which the first initiator has no knowledge, the first initiator has no opportunity to preserve the state of a port located in that web.